

J. Hanley Prosecutorial Experience

Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson

A.

As an AUSA, J. became proficient at investigating large scale drug and human smuggling cases. J. obtained dozens of warrants for electronic evidence – including geo-location and “Title III” phone intercepts.

One large scale investigation involved an alien smuggling conspiracy headed by Fidel Mancinas. The organization was based out of Cananea, Sonora, Mexico and specialized in smuggling people from Central and South America to the United States. Guides or “coyotes” working for the organization would smuggle people across the border and guide them over the Huachuca Mountains to pick up spots near Sierra Vista, Arizona. The groups would then be driven north to Phoenix, Arizona in large vans and sport utility vehicles.

In the Summer of 2009, on State Route 82, near Sonoita, Arizona, members of the organization, along with a group of 24 undocumented aliens were traveling in an SUV. The seats had been removed from the rear of the vehicle and thus, people were sitting, unrestrained, on the floor of the vehicle. The rear tires blew out and the vehicle rolled over numerous times. It was determined that the weight of the vehicle caused the vehicle to lose control and rollover. Eleven people died as a result of the crash.

All told, the investigation resulted in the prosecution and conviction of approximately 60 defendants. Most notably, J. prosecuted the leader of the organization – Fidel Mancinas. J. was responsible for obtaining the extradition of Mancinas from Mexico to the United States. At one point, J. traveled to a prison in Mexico City to interview Mancinas while he was awaiting extradition.

B.

One of J.s most significant prosecutions while an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Arizona was the conviction of 22 defendants who part of an organization responsible for trafficking over 14 tons of marijuana into the U.S. from Mexico.

The drug trafficking organization, utilizing tractor-trailers, brought multi-ton shipments of marijuana into the United States from Mexico via ports of entry located in Arizona. The shipments were then trans-loaded from the Mexican tractor-trailers to domestic tractor-trailers at various warehouses in Nogales and Rio Rico, Arizona and driven to Tucson or Phoenix and eventually cities throughout the United States.

The leader of the drug trafficking organization, Gregoria Lopez-Rodriguez, was a Mexican national who was extradited from Mexico to the United States as part of the prosecution. The arrest and extradition of Lopez-Rodriguez was a collaborative effort between the District of Arizona, the DEA, U.S. Marshals Service, and Mexico's Procuraduria General de la Republica, Agencia Federal de Investigacion, and Policia Estatal Investigadores.

C.

While an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Tucson, Arizona, in addition to prosecuting drug and human smuggling cases, J. prosecuted public corruption cases – at one point obtaining “top secret” clearance.

J.'s last jury trial in Tucson was the conviction of a former Customs and Border Protection Officer who was found guilty of drug smuggling. The evidence at trial showed that on at least two occasions, the defendant, along with other members of the conspiracy, imported more than 1,200 pounds of marijuana from Mexico into the United States through the Douglas Port of Entry. The defendant used his position as a customs officer to allow pick-up trucks loaded with marijuana to cross the border.

The case was won based almost entirely on circumstantial evidence. Specifically, J. and his trial partner methodically introduced various electronic evidence – including text messages, “pen and trap” records, border crossing data, and video evidence, to demonstrate the customs officer's culpability.

D.

While an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Tucson, Arizona, in addition to prosecuting drug and human smuggling cases, J. handled “diversion” cases – those involving the unlawful prescription and distribution of drugs – and usually opioids. One such investigation resulted in the recovery of about 120,000 pills – Exstasy, Percocet, Viagra and Xanax. Many of those pills were found in the home a woman operating a day care center from her apartment in the Bronx, New York.

The “bust” was a result of the collaborative investigative efforts of federal agents and prosecutors from the District of Puerto Rico, the Southern District of New York, and the District of Arizona.

E.

As a result of J. winning a jury trial in Tucson, Mark Andrew Lopez was sentenced to 108 months in federal prison by U.S. Chief Judge John M. Roll. He was found guilty of assaulting federal officers and transporting illegal aliens. The evidence at trial showed that Lopez failed to yield to a traffic stop initiated by a federal agent on State Route 286 in Arizona. Lopez failed to stop and a “chase” ensued and at one point Lopez tried to hit a federal agent with his car. All of this was done while Lopez had four undocumented aliens lying in his back seat and in the cargo area of the car.

At trial, J. presented a crucial piece of evidence - aerial footage of the route Lopez took while avoiding being caught. The video was taken from an A4 helicopter, which J. was able to ride in while the video was recorded.

F.

One of J's cases while an AUSA in Tucson resulted in the seizure and forfeiture of over one million dollars. J. prosecuted Jorge Armenta-Ramirez for bulk cash smuggling. Armenta-Rodriguez attempted to enter Mexico at the DeConcini Port of Entry in Nogales, Arizona. A search revealed \$1,156,594.00 in cash hidden in the roof of his truck.

Assistant State's Attorney, Winnebago County

A.

One of J.'s proudest moments as an Assistant State's Attorney was the trial and conviction of Christopher Chandler. A jury found Chandler guilty of aggravated domestic battery and he was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. Chandler relentlessly and brutally beat a woman he was living with – the details of which are not appropriate for this medium.

It was a challenging victory as it was essentially a one witness case. The survivor told the jury what happened and there was no corroboration of her testimony. Further, she was a drug addict who had been using the day of the attack. But we prevailed, and the credit for the conviction rests entirely with the survivor. Her courage still resonates with me today.

B.

One of J.'s first trials as an Assistant State's Attorney here in Winnebago County was an assault with a handgun. The defendant has threatened his in-laws with a handgun. It was a difficult trial as one of the primary witnesses recanted. However, J. was able to introduce the 911 transcript at trial and prevailed. Upon walking into the hallway after the guilty verdict, the victim gave me a hug. It was the first time that had happened and while I have a few hugs from victims since, that is one I will never forget. It was a needed reminder of why *seeking justice* is so crucial.